- ✦ Frames and mountings for spectacles, goggles or the like, of value below Rs. 500 per piece.

(2) Excise duty of 16% was imposed on:

- Umbrellas and sun umbrellas, and their parts.
- Food preparations intended for free distribution subject to end use certification.
- Soap manufactured under a scheme for sale of Janata soap.
- Strips and tapes of polypropylene used in the factory of its production in the manufacture of polyprapylene ropes.
- Parts and components of motor vehicles transferred to a sister unit.
- Goods supplied for manufacture of PD pumps for handling water.
- Specified Goods meant for display in any fair or exhibition in India.
- Parts of table ware, kitchenware and other household articels of - iron and steel, copper, aluminium.
- Railway track machines.
- Sulphur (2503 00 10). Sulphur falling under this tariff item for fertilizers will be exempt.
- Mixture of graphite and clay for manufacture of pencils or pencil leads.
- Aluminium ferrules for manufacture of pencils.
- Tabacco used for smoking through 'hookah' or 'chilam', commonly known as 'hookah' tabacco or 'gudaku'.

(3) Excise duty was raised from 8% to 16% on:

- Mosaic tiles, Glassware, Lay flat tubing, Cigarette filter rods.
- The rate of compounded levy on stainless steel patti/pattas has been increased from Rs. 15000/- per machine to Rs. 30000/- per machine.

Further,

(1) Excise duty of 12% has been imposed on computers.

(2) Excise duty of 8% has been imposed on packaged software on electronic media.

(3) Excise duty of 16% has been imposed on set top boxes.

Cess leviable on domestic petroleum crude oil under the Oil Industry (Development) Act, 1974 was increased from Rs. 1800 per tonne to Rs. 2500 per tonne.

Bank Lockers

3763. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that termites ate up cash Fixed Deposits (FDs) in bank locker at Central Bank of India, Patna;

(b) if so, how much loss the concerned person suffered and what arrangement shall be made to make the full payment to him;

(c) the reasons for not providing clean and safe lockers to the customers and how such damaged and rusted lockers are kept there;

(d) whether necessary instructions have been issued to all the regularised and other banks to keep proper lockers for the safety of documents and materials;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The Central Bank of India has stated that no such incident has been reported from its branch at Patna. The bank has also reported that clean and safe lockers are provided to the customers and pest control treatment is given every month.

(d) to (f) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) *vide* their circular dated April 17, 2007 have issued guidelines to banks on Safe Deposit Lockers/Safe Custody Articles, stipulating that the banks should exercise due care and necessary precaution for the protection of the lockers provided to the customer and banks should review the system in force for operation of safe deposits vaults/locker at their branches in an on-going basis and take necessary steps. The security procedure should be well documented and the concerned staff should be properly trained in the procedure. It has also been laid down that the internal auditors should ensure that the procedures are strictly adhered to.

Raids Conducted by Income -Tax Department

†3764. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of raids conducted by the Income-Tax Department during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the number of persons prosecuted and the number of persons convicted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The State-wise details of the total number of groups in case of which raids were conducted by the Income Tax Department during the Financial Years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) Prosecutions in 12 cases have been launched in this regard and there have been no convictions since these cases are still pending before the courts.

State-wise number of raids conducted by the IT department during last three years

State	No. of raids conducted		
	F.Y. 2005-06	F.Y. 2006-07	F.Y. 2007-08
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	64	42	53
Assam	6	9	6
Bihar	5	6	7
Chandigarh	3	5	3

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.